

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MOGADI 00770 01 OF 02 101237Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----069091 101305Z /50  
O 101120Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6132

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 MOGADISCIO 0770

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: MASS, PGOV, SO, US  
SUBJ: HIGHLIGHTS OF MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SIAD APRIL 6TH

REFS: A) MOGADISCIO 0740; B) MOGADISCIO 0758

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT SIAD CALLED ME BACK TO THE PRESIDENTIAL COMPOUND LAST THURSDAY AFTERNOON TO REVIEW MANY OF THE SUBJECTS WE HAD TOUCHED ON THAT MORNING. THE LENGTHY TWILIGHT SESSION WHICH SIAD CHARACTERIZED AS A PERSONAL AND NOT AN OFFICIAL MEETING SAW THE SOMALI LEADER ARGUING FOR A CLEAR INDICATION OF TIMELY US SUPPORT. HE PROFESSED CONFUSION OVER US-LED WESTERN POLICY ON THE HORN. HE UNDERScoreD HIS INTEREST IN THIRD-COUNTRY ARMS TRANSFERS, ARGUING THAT HE HAD CRITICS IN HIGH PLACES WHO WERE STILL SUSPICIOUS OF US MOTIVES. IF HE HAD ANY ADVANCE INTIMATIONS OF THE APRIL 9 COUP ATTEMPT, HE DID NOT SHARE THEM, BUT THE BURDEN OF HIS PRESENTATION WAS ON TIMELY MOVEMENT. SIAD IS STILL INTERESTED IN THE US TIE, WANTS US TO UNDERSTAND HE HAS NOT HAD ANY CONVERT DEALINGS WITH THE SOVIETS, BUT ALSO TRIED TO CONVEY THE IMPRESSION THAT THE SOVIET OPTION WAS NOT NECESSARILY CLOSED. END SUMMARY

1. PRESIDENT SIAD CALLED ME BACK TO THE PRESIDENTIAL COMPOUND LAST THURSDAY AFTERNOON, SOME SIX HOURS AFTER THE  
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DCM AND I MET WITH HIM THE SAME MORNING AS REPORTED IN REFTL  
A. MY SECOND CONVERSATION WITH HIM LASTED ALMOST TWO AND A HALF HOURS. HE RAMBLED EXTENSIVELY, AND REPEATED MANY OF HIS EARLIER ARGUMENTS. I RECONSTRUCT THE CONVERSATION AS NEARLY AS I CAN BECAUSE I BELIEVE HE WAS TRYING TO APPEAL TO YOU DIRECTLY FOR SOME MOVEMENT BY THE UNITED STATES ON THE MATTERS COVERED IN YOUR MEETINGS HERE. AT THE OUTSIGHT, SIAD

SAID HE WISHED TREAT SESSION AS PERSONAL MATTER BETWEEN TWO FRIENDS, NOT A MEETING BETWEEN A HEAD OF STATE AND AN AMBASSADOR. CHARACTERIZING YOUR MISSION AS MOST FORTHRIGHT AND DETAILED EXCHANGE HE HAD HELD WITH A SENIOR GOVT OFFICIAL IN RECENT MEMORY, HE HOPED NATURALLY THAT YOU HAD SEEN PRESIDENT CARTER PERSONALLY TO CONVEY THE SUBSTANCE OF YOUR FOUR SESSIONS WITH SIAD. THE SOMALI LEADER EMPHASIZED THROUGHOUT MEETING HIS INABILITY TO COMPREHEND THE POLICY OF THE WEST UNDER LEADERSHIP OF THE US ADMINISTRATION AND THE CONGRESS.

2. REVIEWING HISTORY FROM 1975 TO PRESENT, SIAD TOLD ME HIS FIRST PEEK BEHIND IRON CURTAIN OCCURED AT 25TH CPSU WHEN BREZHNEV AND COLLEAGUES GAVE HIM A GLIMPSE OF THE SOVIET GOALS IN THE HORN. SIAD CLAIMED TO HAVE BEEN APPALLED AT SOVIET MISCALCULATION OF NON-CONVERGENCE OF USSR/GSDR INTERESTS IN HORN AND TOTAL SOVIET MISREADING OF SOMALI CHARACTER AND NATIONALISM.

3. SUBSEQUENTLY, SIAD CONTINUED, HE AND HIS GOVT WERE ENCOURAGED WHEN PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY KISSINGER REMOVED THE RESTRICTIONS RESULTING FROM GSDR FLAG OF CONVENIENCE TRADE WITH VIET-NAM. THIS POSITIVE ACTION PERMITTED RESULPTION PL 480 FLOW. MORE ENCOURAGING ACCORDING TO SIAD WAS ISSINGER'S BELATED AND WELCOMED RECOGNITION USSR'S BLATANT FLOUTING OF DETENTE IN AFRICA.

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4. SIAD ASSERTED HE WAS ENCOURATED BY NEW ADMINISTRATION'S STAND ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL FOCUS ON HORN, ALTHOUGH HIS POLITIBURO AND CENTRAL COMMITTEE REMAINED SUSPICIOUS OF UNITED STATES' REAL INTENTIONS IN MIDDLE EAST AND HORN AFRICA AREAS. (SIAD REVEALED THESE SUSPICIONS WERE THAT US AND USSR HAD REACHED ACCOMMODATIONS ON SPHERES INFLUENCE EAST OF SUEZ). I DID NOT LET HIM GLIDE BY HIS JULY 12-23 DECISION COMMIT SOMALI NATIONAL ARMY FORCES TO JOINT COMMANDS WITH WSLF AND SALF THUS UNDERGIRDING THE WESTERN SOMALI DRIVE TO ACHIEVE SELF-DETERMINATION. AS IN EVERY ENCOUNTER DCM AND I HAVE HAD WITH SIAD ON THIS SUBJECT, HE REFUSED TO ANSWER WHY HE ACTED OR ADMIT THIS DECISION SO COMPROMISES HIS BONAFIDES AMONG PRO-ETHIOPIANS AS WELL AS AFRICAN POST INDEPENDENCE LEADERS. SIAD CHARGED THAT TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY IS AS FALSE AN OAU ISSUE AS DAY IT CONCEIVED. HE ASKED WHY US CONTINUES TO HARP ON THE ISSUE.

4. THE REMAINDER OF CONVERSATION WAS ESSENTIALLY PROLOGUE EXCEPT FOR SIAD'S PERSONAL ASSURANCE THAT RUMORS HE WAS FLIRTING WITH MOSCOW OR HAD SENT AN EMISSARY TO MEET BREZHNEV OR THAT SOMALIS WERE NOW MEETING WITH USSR

DELEGATES IN CHISIMAYO WERE TOTALLY FALSE. SIAD SAID HE HOPED THAT US ADMINISTRATION WILL RE-ESTABLISH ITS CREDITABILITY IN HORN, (FIRST DAMAGED BY ROOSEVELT IN INTRODUCING ARMS FOR BASES AND SUPPORTING THE CONTINUATION OF ETHIOPIAN COLONIALISM IN 1943). SIAD SAID HE ALSO CONTINUES TO HOPE THAT EVOLVING US POLICY IN AFRICA, EUROPE AND MODERATE MIDDLE EAST NATIONS (PLUS IRAN AND PAKISTAN) WILL GIVE MEANING TO INTERDEPENDENCE AND PROTECTION TO EVERYONE'S BASIC INTERESTS IN THE AREA. SUCH CONCERTED ACTIONS WOULD IN TURN THWART SOVIET LONG-TERM HORN, EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICAN GOALS, HE OBSERVED. ONCE AGAIN, AS SO MANY TIMES IN RECENT PAST, HE TOLD ME HE WAS NOT ASKING FOR US MARINES BUT IMMEDIATE THIRD COUNTRY TRANSFERS.

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5. COMMENT. WITH YESTERDAY'S COUP ATTEMPT STILL THE CENTRAL FOCUS HERE, IT IS DIFFICULT TO REVERSE THE CLOCK EVEN AS FAR AS THURSDAY'S TWILIGHT ENCOUNTER. I DO BELIEVE, HOWEVER, SIAD WAS TRYING TO TELL US FOUR THINGS. FIRST, THAT HE IS STILL INTERESTED IN THE TIE WITH THE UNITED STATES, MORE INTERESTED THAN HIS RESPONSE OF THAT MORNING MAY HAVE CONVEYED. SECOND, I BELIEVE HE WAS UNDERSCORING HIS BELIEF

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PAGE 01 MOGADI 00770 02 OF 02 101236Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----069072 101303Z /41

O 101120Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6133

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 MOGADISCIO 0770

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE FROM AMBASSADOR

THAT THE TIME FACTOR WAS INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT. (HE

DID NOT MENTION INTERNAL DISSIDENCE IN THE SECOND MEETING, BUT DID LAY SUBSTANTIAL STRESS ON SUSPICION OF US MOTIVES AMONG SOMALI DECISION MAKERS, A SUSPICION I BELIEVE HE IN PART SHARES. I CANNOT SAY HE DID NOT HAVE SOME INKLING EVEN LAST THURSDAY THAT THERE MIGHT BE INTERNAL TROUBLES.) THIRD, I BELIEVE HE WANTED TO EMPHASIZE THAT THIRD COUNTRY TRANSFERS WERE HIS PRIMARY INTEREST. AND FOURTH, I BELIEVE HE WANTED TO ASSURE US THAT HE HAS NOT INITIATED ANY OPENINGS TO THE SOVIETS WHILE WE CONSIDER POSSIBLE SUPPORT FOR THE GSDR, ALTHOUGH HE DOES WANT US TO UNDERSTAND THAT HE HAS NOT NECESSARILY FORECLOSED THAT OPTION.  
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